

Planbook: Themes Creation Guide

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Introduction:

One of the main reasons that I began writing Planbook software was that I wanted to find an easy way to take the information that I had been writing in my paper plan book and transfer it to the web for my students to use. I investigated blogging software and found it cumbersome, at best, for these purposes and set out to design my own software solution that would provide the functionality I desired.

Publishing lessons to html was a feature in the very early beta releases of Planbook. However, the styling of the software-built pages left something to be desired. The pages, while containing all of the necessary content, were very simple and did not effectively convey information to the users of the website. Beginning with version 0.8.1, the the published output allows for customization via CSS files.

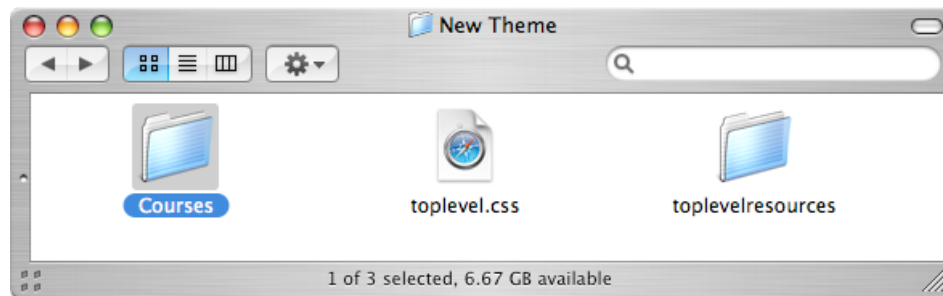
The purpose of this document is to allow users of Planbook to create their own themes for the published output. The process is simple, but certain steps must be followed to ensure proper uploading of your theme to your website.

Theme Format:

Every Planbook theme consists of three .css files:

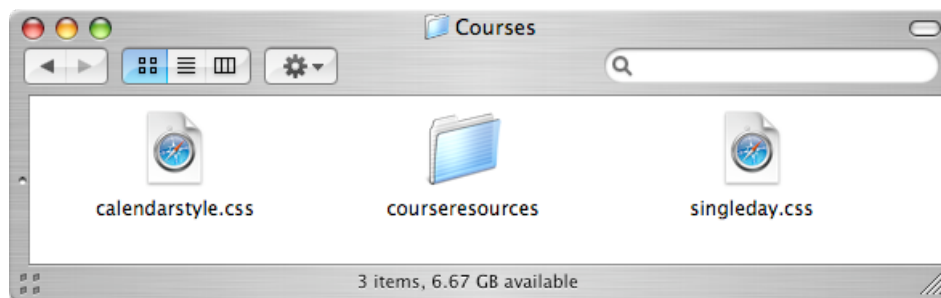
File Name	Purpose
toplevel.css	Defines the style for the main published-page (the page that lists all of the classes that you have entered into Planbook.
calendarstyle.css	Defines the style for the calendar pages that are built for each month of each Planbook course.
singleday.css	Defines the style for each individual lesson that is published

These three files should be located within a directory structure as indicated below:



The name of this folder is the name you have given the theme. In this case, the theme is named "New Theme". This folder contains a "courses" folder that contains the CSS files for the month and single day indexes. It also contains a folder "toplevelresources" that contains any additional resources (backgrounds, for example) needed by your theme.

Within the "Courses" folder you will find the following:

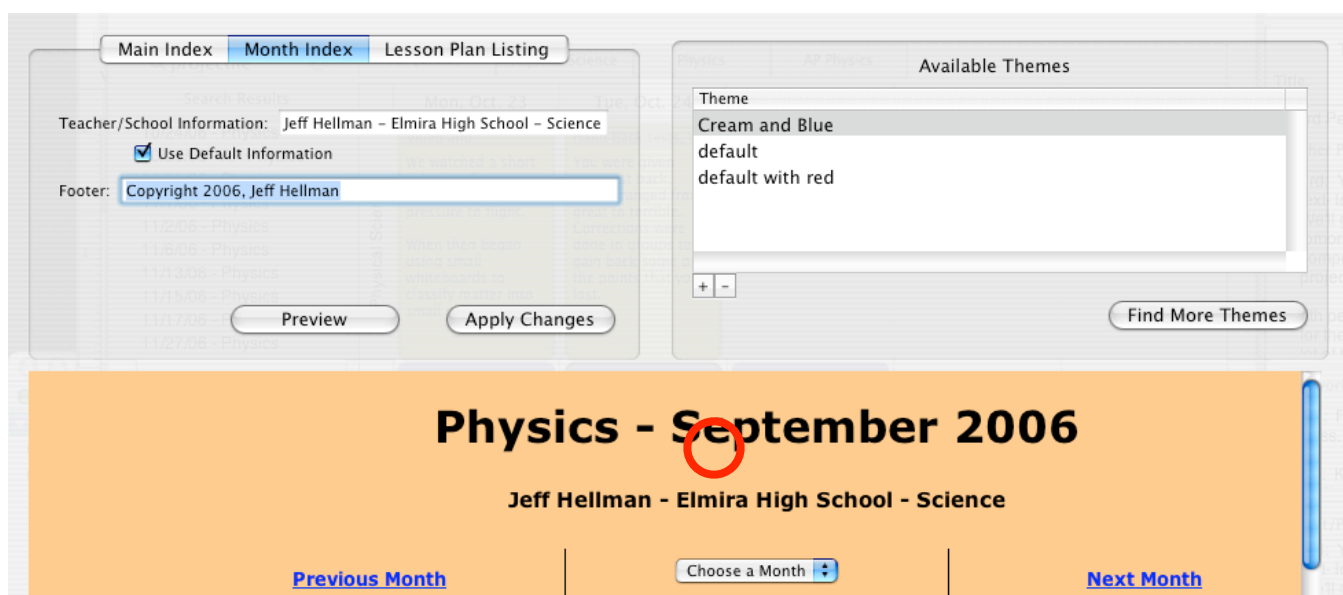


The folder "courseresources" folder should contain any additional resources for either the calendarstyle.css or singleday.css folder.

That's it. To summarize, a Planbook theme should be created in a folder with the name of your theme. Inside this folder, place the toplevel.css file as well as two folders: "courses" and "toplevel-resources". In the "courses" folder place the other two calendarstyle.css and singleday.css files as well as the folder "courseresources".

All that's left is to modify the CSS files to your liking. This document is not a CSS reference. However, I have commented the CSS files found in the default theme which can be found in the "~/Library/Planbook/Styles/Default Theme" folder. Make a copy of this folder and go crazy modifying the CSS to meet your needs.

Once you are done with your modifications, there are two ways to add your new theme to Planbook. You can either place the folder containing your theme into the "~/Library/Planbook/Styles/" directory or open up your Planbook file, go to Publish options and click the + button to add a new theme. Navigate to the folder containing your theme and select it to have it copied to the Styles directory automatically.



If you'd like to add your theme to the collection found at www.hellmansoft.com please e-mail it to me (jeff@hellmansoft.com) in a zipped format and I'll be sure it gets uploaded and that you are credited with its creation.